

Name _____ Date _____ Block _____

Biology

1 Credit

Instructor: Mr. O'Malley

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Overview: This biology course covers a wide variety of issues with a focus on practical applications. Topics will range from cellular structure to basic structure of organisms and their effect on the environment. Human biology will be emphasized with a strong theme of disease recognition. Lab skills will be developed in the program.

Personal Philosophy: One of the major misconceptions about science is that it is merely a collection of facts that need to be memorized. It's true that there are concepts that need to be memorized, but science is not just a collection of facts. It is a process of inquiry and discovery. A student approaching it from a hands on perspective. There will be multiple labs that provide concrete examples of the concepts covered in lecture. There will be daily activities that reinforce the material covered. Students will be challenged to develop critical thinking skills and investigate the material by posing questions. This class will not be a passive, submissive experience.

Materials:

- Students are expected to bring their materials to class everyday, failure to do so will be marked as unprepared.
- Students are expected to designate a notebook specifically for Biology, and bring that notebook to class everyday.
- Students must come to class with a writing instrument i.e. pen, or pencil.
- Students are required to have a folder to store handouts and laboratory procedures, this must be brought to class everyday.

Failure to bring materials to class will result in the student being marked as unprepared. At the end of the quarter the unprepared marks will be counted and applied to the grade.

Classroom Expectations: There are three basic rules, besides the ones stated in the school handbook, that I expect to be followed.

- 1.) Be on time. Arrive to class on time and be in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings. Tardiness will result in loss of points on your final grade.
- 2.) Hand in assignments on time. It is the responsibility of the student to be prompt and punctual with the completion of the assignments.
- 3.) Be respectful to me and your classmates. I will treat you with respect and I expect the same in return. Speaking out of turn, swearing, ridiculing someone else, being disruptive, or name calling are all examples of disrespect. This will not be tolerated.

Grading Procedure: The grades will be determined by using a total points system. Each assessment will be given a point value, and the student can attain the maximum points on that assessment. An example would be a lab report, let's say the lab report is worth 100 points, and the lab report is the first grade in the course, the student gets an 85, the student's current grade is an 85% (8). The next assessment is a test worth 200 points and the student gets 150 on the test that would be a 75% (C-). The overall grade would be 78% 235/300. There will be multiple opportunities to gain points: tests, labs, homework, class activities, and take home projects to name a few.

Tentative Syllabus

Topic/Unit:

Introductory Concepts of Biology

Cell Structure and Function

Ecology and Climate Change

Cell Growth and Division

DNA, RNA, and Protein Synthesis

Introduction to Genetics

Evolution, Dissections, and Phylogeny

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Please have your parent/guardian read the course overview, sign below and return to me.

This signifies that the parent/guardian has read the course overview and understands the expectations and requirements of the course.

Student Name: -----

Parent/G uardian: _____ Date -----

(Please print)

Signature: _____